CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for the prevention of alveolar osteitis and pain following tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal, the method comprising:

(a) filling an oral cavity remaining after tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal with a flowable, moldable, biocompatible, bioresorbable dressing prepared by reacting (i) a collagen derivative and (ii) a non-cytotoxic crosslinking agent; and

(b) enclosing the dressing in the cavity.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the collagen derivative is gelatin.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the collagen derivative is atelocollagen.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein:

step (b) comprises enclosing the dressing in the cavity by suturing tissue above the dressing.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein:

step (a) comprises filling the dressing in the oral cavity with a medical syringe.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the crosslinking agent is selected from compounds containing metal cations, peroxides, and mixtures thereof.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the crosslinking agent is selected from compounds containing copper cations, hydrogen peroxide, and mixtures thereof.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the melting point of the dressing is above 38 degrees Celsius.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the collagen derivative is gelatin, and

the crosslinking agent is selected from compounds containing metal cations, peroxides, and mixtures thereof.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the collagen derivative is atelocollagen, and

the crosslinking agent is selected from compounds containing metal cations, peroxides, and mixtures thereof.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein:

the dressing is a gel.

12. A wound dressing that may be placed in an oral cavity for the prevention of alveolar osteitis and pain following tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal, the dressing comprising:

a flowable, moldable, biocompatible, bioresorbable dressing prepared by reacting (i) a collagen derivative and (ii) a non-cytotoxic crosslinking agent.

13. The dressing claim 12 wherein:

the collagen derivative is gelatin.

14. The dressing claim 12 wherein:

the collagen derivative is atelocollagen.

15. The wound dressing of claim 12 wherein:

the dressing is syringable.

16. The wound dressing of claim 12 wherein:

the crosslinking agent is selected from compounds containing metal cations, peroxides, and mixtures thereof.

17. The wound dressing of claim 12 wherein:

the crosslinking agent is selected from compounds containing copper cations, hydrogen peroxide, and mixtures thereof.

18. The wound dressing of claim 12 wherein:

the melting point of the dressing is above 38 degrees Celsius.

19. The wound dressing of claim 12 wherein:

the collagen derivative is gelatin, and

the crosslinking agent is selected from compounds containing metal cations, peroxides, and mixtures thereof.

20. The wound dressing of claim 12 wherein:

the collagen derivative is atelocollagen, and

the crosslinking agent is selected from compounds containing metal cations, peroxides, and mixtures thereof.

21. The wound dressing of claim 12 wherein:

the dressing is a gel.

22. A kit for use in a method for the prevention of alveolar osteitis and pain following tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal in which an oral cavity remaining after tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal is filled with a dressing, the kit comprising:

a syringe loaded with the wound dressing of claim 12.

23. A kit for use in a method for the prevention of alveolar osteitis and pain following tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal in which an oral cavity remaining after tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal is filled with a dressing, the kit comprising:

a syringe loaded with the wound dressing of claim 13.

24. A kit for use in a method for the prevention of alveolar osteitis and pain following tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal in which an oral cavity remaining after tooth extraction or jaw cyst removal is filled with a dressing, the kit comprising:

a syringe loaded with the wound dressing of claim 14.